

We claim:

1. A metal cross-car beam of unitary construction for support of components in a vehicle comprising:

a hollow metal tube including end sections, said tube formed to accommodate direct attachment of vehicle components at various points to said tube, wherein said end sections are formed into flanges.

2. The metal cross-car beam of claim 1, wherein said hollow tube contains a length and a cross-sectional shape which varies along said length.

3. The hollow metal tube in claim 1, having a thickness wherein the thickness of said hollow metal tube varies along said length of said beam.

4. The cross-car beam of claim 1, wherein the hollow metal tube is steel or alloys thereof.

5. The cross-car beam of claim 1, wherein the hollow metal tube is aluminum or alloys thereof.

6. The cross-car beam of claim 1, wherein said tube is formed by hydroforming.

7. The cross-car beam of claim 2, wherein said tube cross-sectional shape is varied by stretching or compressing the tube.